The ‘Rosemary’

Words & music: Peter Dodds*
Recorded by various artists

** Verses 7 & 8 are by Dave Bryant. This composite arrangement largely based on a recording by Jon Raven*

Dm F C Dm
’Twas way up in Brummagem so I do hear say
B♭ F C Dm
A boat by the name of the *Rosemary* lay
B♭ F C Dm
She was clothed up and painted in traditional style
C Dm B♭ C Dm
But she hadn’t carried for a very long while

B♭ F C Dm
REFRAIN: Fol-de-rol, fol-de-ri-do, sing fol-de-rol-day
C Dm B♭ C Dm
It’s the song they’re all singin’ down Brummagem way

Dm F C Dm
Along came a boatman, the old boat to see
B♭ F C Dm
Says he “Here’s a craft that is useful to me!
B♭ F C Dm
I’ll load her with coal and for London I’ll steer”
C Dm B♭ C Dm
Said the boatman to the owner, “if I take her from here.” **REFRAIN**

Dm F C Dm
The owner said “Yes” and the boatman “Okay”
B♭ F C Dm
And into the cabin he went straight away
B♭ F C Dm
He lit up the stove, cleared cobwebs and mould
C Dm B♭ C Dm
And polished the brass ’til it shone like fine gold **REFRAIN**

Dm F C Dm
He sang as he laboured far into the night
B♭ F C Dm
Got up in the morning before it was light
B♭ F C Dm
Put the rusty blowlamp on the cylinder head
C Dm B♭ C Dm
“’Tis a fine day for boating” the old boatman said **REFRAIN**

Dm F C Dm
He primed up the engine, a prayer in his heart
B♭ F C Dm
Kicked on the flywheel to see if she’d start
B♭ F C Dm
With a bang like the sound of a ten-pounder gun
C Dm B♭ C Dm
The aged old Bolinder started to run **REFRAIN**

Dm F C Dm
He cast off the fore-end, at the counter he stood
B♭ F C Dm
As the *Rosemary* shook herself free of the mud
B♭ F C Dm
With tears in his eyes says the boatman "We may
C Dm B♭ C Dm
Get right down to Coventry 'fore the end of the day." **REFRAIN**

Dm F C Dm
He was seen up at Curdworth by the old tunnel's mouth
B♭ F C Dm
He motored to Fazeley and then he turned south
B♭ F C Dm
He spoke to the keeper at Atherstone Top
C Dm B♭ C Dm
But he never made it to Hawkesbury Stop **REFRAIN**

Dm F C Dm
Some talk of deep holes in the Coventry's bed
B♭ F C Dm
And some say he went up the Ashby instead
B♭ F C Dm
There are stories and theories but for all that they say
C Dm B♭ C Dm
Neither boat nor the boatmen has been seen to this day **REFRAIN**

Dm F C Dm
On dark stormy nights 'round the fall of the year
B♭ F C Dm
If the beat of a Bolinder distant you hear
B♭ F C Dm
It's not Clayton's *Stour*, the *Youmea** or *Tay* [* *actually the* 'Umea']
C Dm B♭ C Dm
It's the ghost of the boatman and the old *Rosemar - y*

B♭ F C Dm
REFRAIN: Fol-de-rol, fol-de-ri-do, sing fol-de-rol-day
C Dm B♭ C Dm
It's the song they're all singin' down Brummagem way

B♭ F C Dm
Fol-de-rol, fol-de-ri-do, sing fol-de-rol-day
C Dm B♭ C Dm
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Guitar – capo V (key of D minor)

Am C G Am
’Twas way up in Brummagem so I do hear say
F C G Am
A boat by the name of the *Rosemary* lay
F C G Am
She was clothed up and painted in traditional style
G Am F G Am
But she hadn’t carried for a very long while

F C G Am
REFRAIN: Fol-de-rol, fol-de-ri-do, sing fol-de-rol-day
G Am F G Am
It’s the song they’re all singin’ down Brummagem way

Am C G Am
Along came a boatman, the old boat to see
F C G Am
Says he “Here’s a craft that is useful to me!
F C G Am
I’ll load her with coal and for London I’ll steer”
G Am F G Am
Said the boatman to the owner, “if I take her from here.” **REFRAIN**

Am C G Am
The owner said “Yes” and the boatman “Okay”
F C G Am
And into the cabin he went straight away
F C G Am
He lit up the stove, cleared cobwebs and mould
G Am F G Am
And polished the brass ’til it shone like fine gold **REFRAIN**

Am C G Am
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G Am F G Am
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But he never made it to Hawkesbury Stop **REFRAIN**

Am C G Am
Some talk of deep holes in the Coventry's bed
F C G Am
And some say he went up the Ashby instead
F C G Am
There are stories and theories but for all that they say
G Am F G Am
Neither boat nor the boatmen has been seen to this day **REFRAIN**

Am C G Am
On dark stormy nights 'round the fall of the year
F C G Am
If the beat of a Bolinder distant you hear
F C G Am
It's not Clayton's *Stour*, the *Youmea** or *Tay* [* *actually the* 'Umea']
G Am F G Am
It's the ghost of the boatman and the old *Rosemar - y*

F C G Am
REFRAIN: Fol-de-rol, fol-de-ri-do, sing fol-de-rol-day
G Am F G Am
It's the song they're all singin' down Brummagem way

F C G Am
Fol-de-rol, fol-de-ri-do, sing fol-de-rol-day
G Am F G Am
It's the song they're all singin' down Brummagem way

The 'Rosemary'

Peter Dodds

Chords in parentheses – Guitar capo V

Repeat REFRAIN after each verse

2. Along came a boatman, the old boat to see
   Says he "Here's a craft that is useful to me!
   I'll load her with coal and for London I'll steer"
   Said the boatman to the owner, "if I take her from here."

3. The owner said "Yes" and the boatman "Okay"
   And into the cabin he went straight away
   He lit up the stove, cleared cobwebs and mould
   And polished the brass 'til it shone like fine gold

4. He sang as he laboured far into the night
   Got up in the morning before it was light
   Put the rusty blowlamp on the cylinder head
   "'Tis a fine day for boating" the old boatman said

5. He primed up the engine, a prayer in his heart
   Kicked on the flywheel to see if she'd start
   With a bang like the sound of a ten-pounder gun
   The aged old Bolinder started to run

arr. Peter McLaren
November, 2019

Repeat REFRAIN after each verse

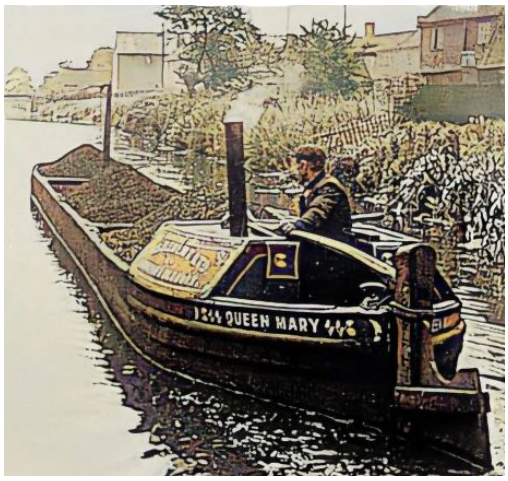
7. He was seen up at Curdworth by the old tunnel's mouth
   He motored to Fazeley and then he turned south
   He spoke to the keeper at Atherstone Top
   But he never made it to Hawkesbury Stop

8. Some talk of deep holes in the Coventry's bed
   And some say he went up the Ashby instead
   There are stories and theories but for all that they say
   Neither boat nor the boatmen has been seen to this day

9. On dark stormy nights 'round the fall of the year
   If the beat of a Bolinder distant you hear
   It's not Clayton's *Stour*, the *Youmea** or *Tay*
   It's the ghost of the boatman and the old *Rosemar - y*

REFRAIN *x 2*

[* *actually the* 'Umea']



Canal boat 'Queen Mary' with a load of coal.

'The Rosemary' was written in the 1970s by canal enthusiast Peter Dodds, with verses 7 & 8 by Dave Bryant. It seems that the Rosemary *was an actual vessel which was first registered in 1936 and originally named* Maia*. Over the years it was renamed and changed owners several times, and was at least partially restored in 1967. Sadly, the* Rosemary *appears to have fallen into disrepair and broken up in 1983.*